

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-13 are presented for examination in the present application. Claims 1, 3, 12, and 13 are amended and Claim 2 is canceled without prejudice by the present amendment.


In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1 and 9-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Kling et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,367,023, herein "Kling"), and Claims 2-8 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter. In view of this indication, independent Claim 1 has been rewritten to include the allowable features of Claim 2 without adding new matter. In addition, independent Claims 12 and 13 have been amended to also include the allowable features of Claim 2. For these reasons, the outstanding rejection on the merits is moot. Accordingly, it is believed that amended independent Claims 1, 12, and 13 and each of the claims depending therefrom are in condition for allowance.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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